

Chairman's and Executive Director's Report:
Thursday, July 24, 1997

1. Call to Order/Attendance.

STEVE: Call on Margit to call the role.

2. Public Comments.

STEVE: This is the time for public comments on any item NOT on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the March 27, 1997 Meeting.

STEVE: We will now consider the draft minutes of the last meeting. Any comments or corrections?

Needs: MOTION, and SECOND--Please say the Commissioner's name; VOICE VOTE.

4. Chairman's Report.

STEVE: The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 1997, here in the Jean Harvie Community Center. At that meeting we will receive the report on recreation uses in the Delta prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The first meeting of the new CALFED Subcommittee is scheduled for Wednesday, August 6, 1997. If any Commissioner wants to receive a full packet, please call staff. The Subcommittee will be discussing the Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan.

In your packet you received a draft resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Steve Sekelsky who has retired and moved to Montana. If acceptable to the Commission, I will entertain a motion for approval.

Needs MOTION, SECOND, and VOICE VOTE.

Upcoming Delta Events: Pear Fair in Courtland on Sunday, July 27, and Catfish Jubilee in Walnut Grove on Sunday, August 24.

5. Attorney General's Report.

STEVE: Call on RICK FRANK, here for Dan Siegel.

RICK FRANK:

6. Executive Director's Report.

STEVE: Call on MARGIT.

MARGIT:

PACKET: You received in your packet a new roster, with our new Commissioner from SLC, and a new address for Commissioner Canciamilla.

Announcements:

* Coastal Commission is sponsoring Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 20; local governments and nonprofit groups can sponsor cleanup in a local area.

* State Water Resources Control Board has announced initiation of proceedings regarding Vernalis flow objectives on December 9-11.

* US Fish and Wildlife announced that the number of breeding ducks across North America rose 13 percent to 42.6 million; the highest numbers since the survey began in 1955. Researchers expect the fall flight to top 100 million ducks. As a result, the DFG may extend the hunting season by 14 days.

* San Joaquin County COG has completed a study of Route 12 within San Joaquin County; the only proposed activities in the Delta include construction of passing lanes from Mokelumne River (the boundary between Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties) to Potato Slough Bridge (near Tower Park Marina); a 5 to 7 million dollar project. There are also proposed improvements at the Highway 12-Highway 5 intersection.

IN CHANNEL ISLANDS:

Prof Kjeldsen has completed his work preparing a baseline study of the four sites for in-channel island projects; the grant application is being completed now-the applicant will be ABAG; and will be submitted on Monday. CALFED will be reviewing the grant applications with the assistance of two review committees, the Ecosystem Roundtable, and BDAC. Grants will be announced in October.

7. Pending Projects Memo.

STEVE: The next agenda item is the pending projects memo. Are there any questions or comments for staff?
(NOTE: No Action; For Commission Information Only)

8. Briefing on Corps/Department of Water Resources Study of Delta Levees; Phase II.

STEVE: A few months ago, there was a suggestion that we invite a representative of the Corps to come to a meeting and brief the Commission on Phase II of a federal-state Delta levee project. Lynn O'Leary, an engineer with the Corps, is here tonight.

Call on Lynn O'Leary.

STEVE: Any Commissioner questions of Ms O'Leary?

(After Questions, let her sit down)

STEVE: Any public comments?

STEVE: Any Commissioner comments/discussion?

9. Briefing on Governor's Flood Emergency Action Team (FEAT)
120 Day Report.

STEVE: Item 9 is a staff briefing on the 120 day FEAT report. Staff is also requesting permission to write a letter of thanks to the Governor and the FEAT Team.

Call on Margit.

MARGIT: As described in the staff report, after release of the 30 day report, the Commission sent a letter outlining issues to the FEAT team, and in addition, a public hearing was held in Walnut Grove on April 21; several commissioners participated and I presented comments on behalf of the Commission.

I believe the Commission's participation was important and effective, and you can see that issues of concern to the Commission have been included in the final 120 Day FEAT report. As outlined in the second page of the staff report, final recommendations to the Governor include:

- * Development of a plan for emergency closures of the Delta waterways during periods of extremely high water; I understand that DBW has submitted its request for an Attorney General's opinion regarding its authority in this area under current law.

- * Improved processes to facilitate levee and river channel maintenance.

- * Development of guidelines to anchor marinas-- Commissioner Curry is already working on this issue as a result of the problems identified in the workshops sponsored by the SLC after the January floods.

In addition, staff attended an "outreach meeting" sponsored by the Corps and DWR in Sacramento. The outreach meetings are to educate and inform the reclamation, levee and flood control districts, and concerned citizens, about flood plain management activities currently underway by the Corps and to discuss recommendations of the FEAT report--there was a memo in the packet and there are a few of the handouts from that

meeting.

Lastly, I believe that several projects which would start to implement some of the flood management recommendations are being presented to CALFED as candidates for Category III grants. Those applications are due Monday, and I will make a report to you at the next meeting. In addition, I recently received a copy of a study prepared for the Cosumnes Preserve which outlines opportunities for restoration of the floodplain on the Cosumnes River, east of New Hope Tract.

That concludes my report, and the only other matter is that I would like to prepare a letter of thanks to the FEAT team and to the Governor for the work in the report for me or the Chair to sign.

STEVE: Any questions of staff?

STEVE: Any Public comments?

STEVE: Any Commission comments/discussion?

10. Update on Hunting Activities on Water Covered Lands in Big Break Owned by East Bay Regional Park District.

STEVE: Call on Margit.

MARGIT: The issues of hunting at Big Break was raised before the Commission last fall, after EBRPD acquired the eastern half of Big Break, an area which has traditionally been used for duck hunting from floating blinds. A meeting was scheduled July 2 to allow the current users to meet with EBRPD to discuss continued uses of the water-covered lands for duck hunting. After the meeting, it appears that EBRPD will allow the existing blinds to be used for hunting, and the staff seemed amenable to allowing the blinds to remain in place in the off-season since they would not create any adverse impacts to navigation. In addition, the hunters expressed concern about future "developments" at Big Break, and asked that they be notified of future planning programs for the area.

STEVE: Commissioner Calone--any additional comments?

STEVE: Any comments from the public?

STEVE: Any other Commissioner comments; suggestions to staff.

11. Update on Legislative Matters.

STEVE: Call on Margit.

MARGIT: Due to staff changes, we have not been able to present a summary of pending legislation to the Commission before this meeting. I want to thank Walter Kornichuk, our new staff member for preparing this summary. We also use the legislative summaries prepared by the Department of Water Resources and Department of Boating and Waterways and wish to thank those agencies. The staff report simply lists pending legislation which would affect the Delta, or issues of importance to the Delta.

The Commission has only taken a position on one piece of legislation this year, SB 172, the bill to create a fund and to streamline the process for removing abandoned vessels from waterways throughout the State. SB 172 passed through the Assembly Committee on Transportation on July 14, 14-0. The bill has only one more Committee hearing in the Assembly, the appropriations Committee. I attended a hearing called by Assembly Member Lember last Monday, where testimony was given describing the extent and the hazards associated with abandoned vessels. In addition, I have continued to attend Delta Partners meetings; that is a group sponsored by the Coast Guard, which is very interested in addressing the issue of clean-up of abandoned vessels.

Earlier in the year, the Commission reviewed AB 979 which was originally an alternative vessel removal program. That bill was totally rewritten to address "boating under the influence" issues, and has been approved and signed into law. As of Tuesday, no other bills on the memo had been signed into law.

This summary is for Commission information only.

STEVE: Any questions or comments from Commissioners?

STEVE: Any questions or comments from the public?

12. Briefing on Prop 204 Grants for Public Access in the Delta.

STEVE: Call on Margit.

MARGIT: Prop 204, approved by the voters last November, included \$995 million dollars for various loan and grant programs associated with water quality programs and for CALFED. It also included a two million dollar grant program for public access and recreation in the Legal Delta to be administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation. You have received tonight the language in Prop 204. DPR has set up a grant program for half the money which will be available to local agencies and nonprofit groups. The other half of the money will be used by the Department for improvements on DPR lands in the Delta. The grant applications are due in December.

The workshop was held on Wednesday, July 16, 1997. There was a presentation from Odel King, the grant program manager for Department of Parks and Recreation; a presentation from Bill Curry about Department of Boating and Waterways grant programs; and a presentation from Georgia Lipphardt from Wildlife Conservation Board about that agency's grant programs. There was also a presentation about the CALFED Category III grant program. We had participation from several local governments and several interested parties.

STEVE: Commissioner Curry, would you like to add anything?

STEVE: Any questions from Commissioners?

STEVE: Any public comments?

STEVE: Any comments/discussion from members of the Commission?

13. Commissioner Comments/Announcements.

STEVE: (1) new program to offset costs of winter flooding
 of agricultural fields;
 (2) Tyler Island dredging permit issues.

14. Adjourn